

***INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE***  
***April 15 - 28, 2011***

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**1. [U.S. and International Community Continue Pressure on Qadhafi](#) (04-28-2011)**

By M. Scott Bortot  
Staff Writer

Washington — Amid promising signs of civil society in Libya, the United States continues to work with its partners in Libya and the international community to pressure Muammar Qadhafi to step down, U.S. Ambassador to Libya Gene Cretz said April 27.

"I think that we are bringing to bear all we can in terms of our coalition partners, in terms of our own actions, and in terms of beginning to look at the political processes that hopefully will lead to an end to this," Cretz said.

The Libya Contact Group meeting in Doha, the NATO ministerial meeting in Berlin, and the African Union, Arab League and United Nations meetings in Cairo show the depth of the effort by the world community to find a solution to the Libya crisis.

"It is a deliberative process that we are engaged in with our allies," Cretz said. "Number 1 was the military part, the protection of humanitarian life and trying to get services flowing to those cities

that are affected by Qadhafi, and Number 2 is the political part ... the international consensus that now has become quite solid, that in order for there to be a solution to this, Qadhafi needs to leave.”

The U.S. special envoy to the Libyan National Transitional Council, Chris Stevens, arrived in Benghazi on April 5 to open a dialogue with Qadhafi’s opposition. Cretz said Stevens is working with the council and meeting with other elements of emerging Libyan civil society.

The council members “continue to say the right things. They are reaching out to the international community and they are trying to be as inclusive as possible. They are working through the normal bugs that would be a part of any stand-up transitional government in a country that has not had politics for 40 years,” Cretz said.

Because Libyans have lived under authoritarian rule for more than 40 years, they will face challenges in building a new government, Cretz said. Despite the hurdles, there are encouraging signs in Benghazi of what a Libya of the future might look like.

“You have nongovernmental organizations springing up. You have people debating with each other, debating political issues. You have a seminar at the university ... of a professor talking about constitutional issues. You have cultural events, you have poetry readings, you have newspapers,” Cretz said. U.S. envoy Stevens “and I think others have described the situation as a world that you wouldn’t recognize had you been in Libya on February 16.”

Although the U.S. Embassy staff members left Tripoli, they maintain contact with people in all regions of the country.

“From these people we have been able to get almost daily reports about the situation in the west and about the brutal kind of activities that Qadhafi is taking against the west,” Cretz said.

Qadhafi’s family and military units remain the core elements of the regime, but there are others who may be willing to move against it but cannot out of fear, Cretz said. The U.S. is reaching out to them but it must be their decision about which side to take.

Cretz said it is clear that Libyans around the country want Qadhafi to step down and for his regime to end.

“Our sense is that it is not only Benghazi in the east that has forged a consensus, as we have in the international community that Qadhafi has to go and that a new process has to begin,” Cretz said. “I think that is a consensus that we have heard from our contacts in the west, the south, the north and in the east, so there is a Libyan consensus on this.”

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## **2. U.S. Sees Shift of Extremist Power Away from al-Qaida’s Core (04-28-2011)**

By Jeff Baron  
Staff Writer

Washington — A top U.S. counterterrorism official says that al-Qaida is getting weaker, but that its affiliates have grown more powerful and independent.

Daniel Benjamin, the State Department’s coordinator for counterterrorism, also told a conference April 27 at a Washington policy research organization that the al-Qaida affiliates are more

dangerous not only because they are stronger and more technically sophisticated but also because, in many cases, the countries in which they operate are going through upheavals.

“We are in a fast-changing landscape — a season of transformative change in the Middle East whose full implications are still taking shape,” Benjamin said. “The changes of government and broad-based efforts to win new freedoms for the people of the region hold enormous promise.”

In the long run, if that promise is fulfilled, he said, al-Qaida’s “single-minded focus on terrorism as an instrument of political change would be severely and irretrievably delegitimized. That would be a genuinely strategic blow.”

In the meantime, though, he warned that instability is offering opportunities to such groups as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb specializes in kidnapping for ransom, which Benjamin said has become a leading tool for financing al-Qaida groups worldwide. And al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula “continues to demonstrate its growing ambitions and strong desire to carry out attacks outside of its region” while becoming a leading source of propaganda, Benjamin said.

Al-Shabaab, though not an affiliate of al-Qaeda, also is growing in strength in Somalia, which lacks a strong government.

Benjamin said that thanks to counterterrorism efforts in cooperation with Pakistan, “the al-Qaida core has had significant leadership losses and is finding it more difficult to raise money, train recruits and plan attacks outside of the region.” It and other groups, such as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, the Haqqani Network and Lashkar e-Tayyiba, remain a menace in South Asia, he said.

And Benjamin said al-Qaida in Iraq continues to carry out occasional attacks but has dwindled in power and support.

To counter the shifts in the terrorism threat, Benjamin said, the United States is working to strengthen other governments for short-term improvements in security and longer-term improvements in governance and the rule of law.

Much of the effort has been in Pakistan, which Benjamin said “today is more willing to take on extremist groups that directly threaten Pakistani targets, such as military bases, intelligence offices and police stations.”

Although Yemen has been in upheaval in recent weeks, Benjamin said he is hopeful that the government that emerges will want to cooperate against terrorism. The U.S. effort is designed to improve the Yemeni government’s ability to provide security and other services for its people, along with a substantial increase in development.

Benjamin said efforts are expanding through regional groups as well as in U.S. programs with individual countries. The goal, he said, is for those regions and governments to have a greater capacity to undercut terrorist groups in the long run.

[U.S. Officials Brief on Civil, Military Operations in Afghanistan](#) (04-28-2011)

### **3. U.N. Ambassador Rice's Remarks on Situation in Syria (04-27-2011)**

Remarks by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on the Situation in Syria, at the Security Council Stakeout, April 26, 2011

Ambassador Rice: Good evening. The brutal violence being used by the Government of Syria against its own people is abhorrent and deplorable, and the United States condemns it in the strongest terms. The outrageous use of violence to quell protests must come to an end – and now. The Syrian Government's actions to repeal the decade's old emergency law and allow for peaceful demonstrations were clearly not serious, given the continued violent repression against protesters. The United States is currently pursuing a range of possible policy options, including additional targeted sanctions, to respond to the crackdown and make clear that this behavior is unacceptable.

The Syrian people's call for freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and to choose their leaders freely must be heard. We strongly oppose the Syrian government's treatment of its citizens and we continue to oppose its continued destabilizing behavior more generally – including support for terrorism and terrorist groups. Instead of listening to their own people, President Assad is disingenuously blaming outsiders, while at the same time seeking Iranian assistance in repressing Syria's citizens, through the same brutal tactics that have been used by the Iranian regime. The United States will continue to stand up for democracy and respect for human rights, the universal rights that all human beings deserve in Syria and around the world. I'm happy to take a couple of questions.

Reporter: Ambassador, there is talk about probably dealing with Libya in a more definitive decisive way than dealing with the Syria issue. How hard of a time are you having with members, fellow members of the Security Council bringing the issue of Syria to the Security Council? And do you agree with some of the calls by different groups that it is time to start to think of moving on to the ICC in terms of accountability and the responsibility to protect, as well applying it to Syria as it was applied to Libya.

Ambassador Rice: Well, we certainly strongly support a discussion of the situation in Syria by the Security Council. We had an initial discussion today. We'll have a more detailed briefing and discussion tomorrow. And we think that is appropriate, given the gravity of the situation and the concerns that we all share for the civilians that are at risk at present in Syria and the potential of this conflict to have implications for regional peace and security. But each of these situations is different. They are different in terms of their origins, of their consequences, and they will be different in terms of the action that is feasible and indeed desirable here from the Security Council.

Reporter: Ambassador. Two things, one given what you described as the abhorrent situation here, why isn't there a quick agreement – I know you're going to talk about it tomorrow – a quick agreement on some sort of statement? Obviously you left the meeting today without it. Number two, can you expand on what you said about Iranian influence in this situation?

Ambassador Rice: Well, first of all, Bill, we think that – this discussion today as you know was a briefing by the Secretary General on his trip and a handful of other topical issues. It was not an extensive briefing of the sort that we had last week for instance on Yemen and that we all agreed to seek tomorrow on Syria. So we will have that briefing. We will have a discussion about what reaction if any the Council can agree on and we will consider where to take this issue further. So we just haven't had a full opportunity to do that yet and I hope that we will soon do so.

Reporter: How about the Iranian influence?

Ambassador Rice: With respect to – I’m not going to get into a great deal of detail on that, but we have said repeatedly that we are very conscious of and concerned by the evidence of active Iranian involvement and support on behalf of the Syrian government in its repression of its people. Thank you very much.

[U.S. Official on Developments in Middle East, Other Issues](#) (04-26-2011)

[U.S. Considers Targeted Sanctions Against Syrian Leaders](#) (04-26-2011)

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#### **4. U.S. Contributing Armed Drones to Libya Mission (04-22-2011)**

By Jeff Baron  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States has added armed, unmanned Predator aircraft to the effort to protect civilians and opponents of Libyan strongman Muammar Qadhafi, Defense Secretary Robert Gates says.

Gates told reporters April 21 that President Obama approved the use of the drones, which will allow for more precise airstrikes from low altitudes against Qadhafi’s forces in populated areas.

Marine General James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the first armed Predator mission had been flown earlier in the day but that bad weather forced it to turn back. He didn’t say what the mission was. Predators are armed with Hellfire missiles, which are designed to destroy armored vehicles.

Cartwright noted that armed Predators also were used in the initial phase of the Libya operation, and that unarmed Predators had been used for reconnaissance since then.

Cartwright said Predators will be valuable because of “their ability to get down lower, therefore to be able to get better visibility on particular targets now that have started to dig themselves into defensive positions. They’re uniquely suited for urban areas where you can get low collateral damage.”

Cartwright said the Predators can remain in the air over a battle zone for an extended period. Gates said the operation can keep as many as two Predators over Libya 24 hours a day.

When asked why the operation didn’t include more of the aircraft, Gates said that with soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States is “the most stretched militarily” of all its allies.

The NATO force attacking Qadhafi’s troops by air includes U.S. forces in a supporting role; Obama had said the United States would be more involved if needed. Gates said that in the case of the Predator, NATO is drawing on the United States’ “unique capabilities.”

“It’s an evolving situation, but we saw an opportunity here and recommended it to the president, and he took it,” Gates said.

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## **5. State's Gottemoeller at U.S. Naval Academy on Nuclear Weapons (04-22-2011)**

Remarks by Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, Annapolis, MD, April 20, 2011

Good evening. Thank you, Dean Michael Halbig, and Professor Gale Mattox for inviting me to join you. Thank you everyone for coming and for your commitment and service to our country.

Two years ago in Prague, President Obama spoke about his vision of a world without nuclear weapons, and recognized the need to create the conditions to bring about such a world.

The United States has been working diligently on the Prague agenda ever since, which includes stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear arsenals, and securing nuclear materials. Last April, we took three steps toward creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

The first step was the release of the Nuclear Posture Review, or NPR, which reduces the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy and extends negative security assurances to all non-nuclear weapon states party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) who are in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. The NPR emphasized that today our greatest nuclear threat is no longer a large-scale nuclear exchange, but the danger that terrorists could acquire nuclear materials or a nuclear weapon. The NPR further notes that, while our nuclear arsenal has little direct relevance in deterring this threat, concerted action by the United States and Russia – and indeed, from all nuclear weapon states – to further reduce their arsenals can assist in garnering worldwide support for strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The second step was the signing of the New START Treaty with Russia, which took place on April 8 of last year, in Prague.

And the third step was the Nuclear Security Summit which President Obama hosted in Washington on April 12-13, during which world leaders from 47 countries reached a consensus that nuclear terrorism is one of the most challenging threats to international security, and joined the U.S. in its call to secure all vulnerable nuclear material in four years.

The step with which I was charged was to negotiate the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START, with Russia. This Treaty is very important because the United States and Russia control more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons. The New START Treaty responsibly limits the number of strategic nuclear weapons and launchers that the United States and Russia deploy, while allowing the United States to maintain the effectiveness of its nuclear deterrent.

When the New START Treaty is fully implemented, it will result in the lowest number of strategic nuclear warheads deployed by the United States and the Russian Federation since the 1950s, the first full decade of the nuclear age.

Following an intense and thorough ratification debate in the United States Senate last December, the New START Treaty was approved by the United States and soon thereafter, the Russian Federation approved the Treaty. On February 5, Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Lavrov exchanged the instruments of ratification, which brought the Treaty into force.

Implementation of the Treaty is well underway. We have exchanged data on our strategic nuclear facilities and forces. This information forms the foundation of the Treaty's database, which will be



updated by the Parties continuously through the notification process and exchanged anew every six months throughout the life of the Treaty. The United States conducted exhibitions of its B-1B and B-2A heavy bombers and the Russian Federation conducted an exhibition of its RS-24 ICBM and associated mobile launcher. As of April 6, the Parties could begin to conduct on-site inspections, which enable each Party to have “boots on the ground” and inspect the other Party’s Treaty-related facilities. The United States began its first on-site inspection in Russia last week.

The New START Treaty sets the stage for further limits on and reductions in nuclear arms. When President Obama signed the New START Treaty, he said “the United States intends to pursue with Russia additional and broader reductions in our strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, including non-deployed nuclear weapons.” For its part, the U.S. Senate made clear its strong interest in addressing the numerical disparity in non-strategic, or tactical nuclear weapons, between the United States and Russia.

Consistent with the President’s agenda to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons, and the Senate’s call for pursuing negotiations with Russia on tactical nuclear weapons, we are working intensively throughout our government on these issues while also consulting with our NATO allies.

Under the President’s direction, the Department of Defense will conduct a strategic force analysis to develop options for potential future reductions in our nuclear arsenal. This work will be guided by the policies set forth in the NPR, including strengthening deterrence of potential regional adversaries, strategic stability vis-à-vis Russia and assurance of our allies and partners.

At the same time, NATO is conducting a Deterrence and Defense Posture Review (DDPR) to determine how to translate NATO’s new Strategic Concept adopted at the Lisbon NATO Summit in 2010 into practical steps designed to strengthen NATO’s collective security and defense in this evolving security environment.

The NATO Lisbon Summit Declaration makes clear that the Alliance will seek to create the conditions needed to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons assigned to NATO. As part of this effort, we will be working with NATO to shape an approach to reduce the role and number of forward-based U.S. non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, as Russia takes reciprocal steps to reduce its non-strategic nuclear weapons and relocate them away from NATO’s borders.

At the end of last week, Secretary Clinton joined her NATO Foreign Ministerial counterparts in Berlin where she discussed how NATO’s ongoing Deterrence and Defense Posture Review can be used to advance these efforts, building on the five principles that she first outlined in Tallinn a year ago. These principles are as follows:

- First, we should recognize that as long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance;
- Second, as a nuclear Alliance, sharing nuclear risks and responsibilities widely is fundamental;
- Third, our broad aim is to continue to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons. Of course, we recognize that in the years since the Cold War ended, NATO has already dramatically reduced its reliance on nuclear weapons;

- Fourth, Allies must broaden deterrence against the range of 21st Century threats, including by pursuing territorial missile defense, conducting Article 5 training and exercises, and drafting additional contingency plans to counter new threats to the Alliance;
- And fifth, in any future reductions, our aim should be to seek Russian agreement to increase transparency on non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, relocate these weapons away from the territory of NATO members, and include non-strategic nuclear weapons in the next round of U.S.-Russian arms control discussions alongside strategic and non-deployed nuclear weapons.

Through the DDPR, NATO will determine the appropriate mix of capabilities needed to deter and defend against existing and emerging threats to the Alliance. The mix of capabilities will include conventional, nuclear and missile defense.

In Berlin, Secretary Clinton reiterated the U.S. commitment to addressing the disparity in non-strategic weapons between the United States and Russia in the next arms control negotiation. As a first step, the United States would like to increase transparency on a reciprocal basis with Russia, including on the numbers, locations, and types of non-strategic weapons in Europe. We will consult with NATO Allies on such reciprocal actions that could be taken by each side and invite Russia to join with us to develop this initiative.

The United States is also interested in conducting a broad policy discussion with Russia on issues of stability, security, and confidence-building, which can help lay the groundwork for eventual further nuclear arms reductions.

Another major challenge with regard to next steps is verification. As the numbers go lower, as the items to be limited and verified get smaller (e.g., warheads instead of delivery vehicles), the verification challenge becomes more complex and the margins for error become smaller. When we think about monitoring weapons in storage, or eliminating nuclear weapons, we must tackle verification tasks that have not been addressed before. So while we look at the policy issues surrounding the next agreement, we must also be equally focused on the technical issues. Addressing the technical challenges must be integrally linked to the negotiation of future agreements.

We also are seeking cooperation with Russia on ballistic missile defense. Such cooperation can provide assurances to Russia that our missile defenses will not undercut strategic stability, while enhancing the ability of both nations to defend against emerging missile threats.

We believe that military transparency builds confidence and lays a foundation for effective cooperation in other areas as well. For this reason, the United States and our NATO Allies have been working hard with Russia and other partners to find a way forward on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty with the aim of launching new negotiations to strengthen and modernize conventional arms control in Europe for the 21st century.

Negotiated nuclear reductions to date have been dominated by bilateral U.S. and Russian negotiations. However, as we advance toward the vision of a safe, secure world without nuclear weapons we will increasingly need to strengthen cooperation on WMD issues of concern to both nuclear weapons and non-nuclear weapons states.

Much work lies ahead on these issues – and that is where you come in.



Over the course of my career I have either worked directly with or had the benefit of advice from naval officers – either active duty or retired. During the negotiation of the New START Treaty, one member of our delegation was a 2004 graduate of this academy. He played a vital role in negotiating and developing the Treaty's database. We also benefitted from the knowledge and experience of some less recent graduates, including a member of my staff, a 1973 Naval Academy graduate, who also helped to negotiate the 1991 START Treaty.

Arms control issues cross the interagency and there is a role for all ranks to play, from senior policy advisors to inspectors of Russian strategic force facilities.

I know that this institution is preparing you well for playing an important role – no matter what path you take – in ensuring the national security of the United States. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you again for inviting me here tonight.

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## **6. Obama and Britain's Cameron Discuss Libya Crisis (04-21-2011)**

By M. Scott Bortot  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama continues his diplomatic efforts to work with nations and international groups on finding a solution to the crisis in Libya.

As part of his consultations with coalition allies and partners, Obama discussed U.N. Security Council resolutions on Libya with British Prime Minister David Cameron during an April 20 telephone call, according to the White House.

The leaders agreed that U.N. Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 must be fully implemented to end the civil strife and protect the lives of Libyan citizens. Along with increasing military pressure and protecting civilians through the NATO-led operation in Libya, the leaders discussed increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on the regime of Muammar Qadhafi.

Both leaders noted the level of international consensus reached at the Libya Contact Group meeting in Doha, Qatar, on April 13 and the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Berlin April 14–15. Both meetings stressed the need for Qadhafi to leave power.

As part of American efforts to work with partners on Libya, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough met with African Union (AU) Commission Chairman Jean Ping at the White House on April 21.

McDonough stressed the importance of the AU, the Arab League, the United Nations and NATO as partners working together to secure a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Libya. He also emphasized the value of the AU-U.S. relationship in engaging in Africa and reiterated America's commitment to work with the AU and African nations to strengthen democracy, economic development and peace and stability.

Additionally, McDonough and Ping discussed situations in Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire and Somalia, and how the United States and the AU can work together on a range of issues. Ping was in Washington

to attend the second annual U.S.-AU high-level dialogue, which includes meetings with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

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## **7. U.N. Renews Efforts to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring WMDs (04-21-2011)**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration says it welcomes the 10-year extension of the U.N. committee charged with implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540, which obliges countries to take effective action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent them from falling into the hands of nonstate actors.

On April 20, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1977. The measure extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee, which is charged with executing the 2004 resolution, assessing progress toward its implementation and aiding governments in fulfilling their obligations to prevent nonstate entities from obtaining weapons of mass destruction or the means to deliver them.

Nonstate actors can include terrorists and terrorist groups, extremist groups, insurgencies and criminal organizations engaged in illicit arms trade.

“The 1540 Committee’s new ten-year mandate allows it to continue its valuable work, including through adoption of effective laws, security measures, border controls and financial controls,” the White House said in an April 20 statement. Under Resolution 1977, the 1540 Committee will have a group of experts to provide it with advice and assistance, and the committee will be able to work more closely with regional and intergovernmental organizations to better implement the resolution.

The White House added that the Obama administration intends to make a voluntary contribution of \$3 million to support the 1540 Committee’s activities, to “further underscore its commitment” to [President Obama’s April 2009 call in Prague](#) for a world without nuclear weapons.

U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Susan Rice said that by adopting the resolution, the Security Council “has taken a firm and unanimous stand against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”

In an April 20 statement, Rice said terrorist organizations and other nonstate actors are determined to acquire WMDs, and the threat “is just as serious today as it was in 2004” when [Resolution 1540](#) was adopted.

The new U.N. measure “sharpens the tools” of the 1540 Committee by providing it with experts and technical assistance, Rice said.

According to press reports, the committee can assist governments in preventing the spread of WMDs by helping them prepare relevant legislation, oversee security measures to protect potential WMD ingredients, and strengthen police efforts and border controls.

President Obama hosted world leaders in Washington April 12–13, 2010, for a [Nuclear Security Summit](#) that served to increase international recognition of the shared threat from nuclear terrorism

and obtain agreement on concrete actions to prevent the proliferation of nuclear materials to nonstate actors.

Participating countries embraced the goal of securing all of the world's vulnerable nuclear materials within four years and agreed that they have a responsibility to safeguard all nuclear materials and facilities under their control.

Since the president's April 2009 speech, the United States has aggressively pursued nuclear nonproliferation. Along with hosting the Nuclear Security Summit, President Obama chaired the U.N. Security Council's 2009 adoption of [Resolution 1887](#), which sets a framework to guide nations in halting the spread of nuclear weapons and reducing global nuclear dangers, and helped to bring about global consensus on [strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) at its five-year review conference in May 2010.

[Statement on Passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1977](#) (04-20-2011)

[Adoption of U.N. Resolution on Nonproliferation Measures](#) (04-20-2011)

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## **8. NATO Reaffirms Libya Group's Call for Qadhafi to Step Down (04-18-2011)**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — Foreign ministers representing the 28 members of NATO met in Berlin April 14–15 and endorsed the Libya Contact Group's April 13 call for Muammar Qadhafi to immediately step down from power and for his supporters to end their attacks on Libyan civilians.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Philip Gordon told reporters in Washington April 18 that the NATO meeting served to reaffirm and follow up on the contact group's statement.

The contact group, a coalition of Arab and non-Arab representatives that is leading international efforts to map Libya's future, met in Doha, Qatar, and demanded "an immediate end to all attacks against civilians, and for Qadhafi and his regime to pull back all regime forces from Libyan cities they have forcibly entered, occupied or besieged."

The group's statement said Qadhafi's continued presence in Libya "would threaten any resolution of the crisis" and it called on "all Libyans who wanted to see a process of political transition to urge Qadhafi to step down."

In Berlin, Gordon said, NATO allies "agreed very specifically to maintain a high operational tempo against legitimate targets, and to exert this pressure as long as necessary" until they have met their military objectives of ending the threat of attacks against Libyan civilians; having pro-Qadhafi forces withdraw to their bases; and allowing humanitarian organizations to have immediate access to the Libyan people.

NATO assumed command from the United States of the mission to enforce a no-fly zone over the country and protect Libyan civilians, as authorized by the United Nations and the Arab League.

Gordon said the United States "was very much in the lead" during the initial phase of the campaign, using its air assets and cruise missiles against Qadhafi's air-defense systems, but said President Obama and other U.S. officials "made clear from the start that after the initial phase of the

campaign ... eventually the United States was going to transition to NATO and focus its contributions on our unique capabilities: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and air refueling.”

The United States is continuing to do “the bulk” of that mission since the March 31 handover, he said.

“That is what we said we would do in advance. That is exactly what we are doing,” he said. The Obama administration is confident that its NATO allies and its Arab and other partners in the campaign have “the capabilities to successfully conduct the rest of that operation.”

Gordon said the United States and its NATO allies “will continue to strive to make sure NATO is acting as effectively and efficiently as possible,” including adapting to changes in tactics used by Qadhafi’s forces.

According to an April 15 NATO communiqué at the conclusion of the meeting in Berlin, Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the organization and its Arab and other operational partners are in agreement over the military objectives in Libya.

“NATO is absolutely determined to continue its operation for as long as there is a threat against Libyan civilians, and it is impossible to imagine that threat will disappear with Qadhafi in power,” Rasmussen said.

Secretary of State [Hillary Rodham Clinton said April 15](#) that she and the other NATO foreign ministers had strongly endorsed the Libya Contact Group’s statement calling on Qadhafi to leave power. “A democratic transition must take place that reflects the will of the Libyan people,” she said.

“I think the bottom line is that here at NATO we achieved a solid and sustainable consensus on our objectives and what it will take to achieve them,” Clinton said.

The [full statement](#) of the Libya Contact Group can be found on the website of the United Kingdom’s embassy in Tripoli.

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## **[9. Obama, U.K.’s Cameron and France’s Sarkozy on Libya \(04-15-2011\)](#)**

*The following joint commentary by President Obama, Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France appeared in the April 15 editions of the International Herald Tribune, Le Figaro, and Times of London and is in the public domain.*

### **Libya’s Pathway to Peace**

By Barack Obama, David Cameron and Nicolas Sarkozy

Together with our NATO allies and coalition partners, the United States, France and Britain have been united from the start in responding to the crisis in Libya, and we are united on what needs to happen in order to end it.

Even as we continue our military operations today to protect civilians in Libya, we are determined to look to the future. We are convinced that better times lie ahead for the people of Libya, and a pathway can be forged to achieve just that.

We must never forget the reasons why the international community was obliged to act in the first place. As Libya descended into chaos with Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi attacking his own people, the Arab League called for action. The Libyan opposition called for help. And the people of Libya looked to the world in their hour of need. In an historic resolution, the United Nations Security Council authorized all necessary measures to protect the people of Libya from the attacks upon them. By responding immediately, our countries, together with an international coalition, halted the advance of Qaddafi's forces and prevented the bloodbath that he had promised to inflict upon the citizens of the besieged city of Benghazi.

Tens of thousands of lives have been protected. But the people of Libya are still suffering terrible horrors at Qaddafi's hands each and every day. His rockets and shells rained down on defenseless civilians in Ajdabiya. The city of Misurata is enduring a medieval siege, as Qaddafi tries to strangle its population into submission. The evidence of disappearances and abuses grows daily.

Our duty and our mandate under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973 is to protect civilians, and we are doing that. It is not to remove Qaddafi by force. But it is impossible to imagine a future for Libya with Qaddafi in power. The International Criminal Court is rightly investigating the crimes committed against civilians and the grievous violations of international law. It is unthinkable that someone who has tried to massacre his own people can play a part in their future government. The brave citizens of those towns that have held out against forces that have been mercilessly targeting them would face a fearful vengeance if the world accepted such an arrangement. It would be an unconscionable betrayal.

Furthermore, it would condemn Libya to being not only a pariah state, but a failed state too. Qaddafi has promised to carry out terrorist attacks against civilian ships and airliners. And because he has lost the consent of his people any deal that leaves him in power would lead to further chaos and lawlessness. We know from bitter experience what that would mean. Neither Europe, the region, or the world can afford a new safe haven for extremists.

There is a pathway to peace that promises new hope for the people of Libya — a future without Qaddafi that preserves Libya's integrity and sovereignty, and restores her economy and the prosperity and security of her people. This needs to begin with a genuine end to violence, marked by deeds not words. The regime has to pull back from the cities it is besieging, including Ajdabiya, Misurata and Zintan, and return to their barracks. However, so long as Qaddafi is in power, NATO must maintain its operations so that civilians remain protected and the pressure on the regime builds. Then a genuine transition from dictatorship to an inclusive constitutional process can really begin, led by a new generation of leaders. In order for that transition to succeed, Qaddafi must go and go for good. At that point, the United Nations and its members should help the Libyan people as they rebuild where Qaddafi has destroyed — to repair homes and hospitals, to restore basic utilities, and to assist Libyans as they develop the institutions to underpin a prosperous and open society.

This vision for the future of Libya has the support of a broad coalition of countries, including many from the Arab world. These countries came together in London on March 29 and founded a Contact Group which met this week in Doha to support a solution to the crisis that respects the will of the Libyan people.

Today, NATO and our partners are acting in the name of the United Nations with an unprecedented international legal mandate. But it will be the people of Libya, not the U.N., who choose their new constitution, elect their new leaders, and write the next chapter in their history.

April 28, 2011

Britain, France and the United States will not rest until the United Nations Security Council resolutions have been implemented and the Libyan people can choose their own future.

*Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States, David Cameron is prime minister of Britain and Nicolas Sarkozy is president of France.*

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